



The Rules of Romance Manifested in the Textual Structure of the Novel Fireside

Ratu Prayuna¹, Rayhan Romombe De Ferras², Fitra Wahyu Ramadhan³

^{1,2,3}Universitas Pamulang, Banten, Indonesia

E-mail: dosen01443@unpam.ac.id

Article Info	Abstract
Article History Received: 2023-06-12 Revised: 2023-07-23 Published: 2023-08-14 Keywords: <i>Romance;</i> <i>Rules of Romance;</i> <i>Romance Genre;</i> <i>Novel Fireside.</i>	The aim of this study was to identify how Susan Wiggs' novel Fireside (2009) represented the romance genre. This study's research approach, which includes a description of the analysis, is qualitative. The novel Fireside by Susan Wiggs, the textual approach with close reading used in this study, serves as the analytical unit. The results of the data analysis are then used to examine the fundamental principles of romance in the book. Cawelti G. John's (1977) book <i>Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formulas Stories as Art and Popular Culture</i> served as the basis for the idea applied in this study. The results of this study indicate that the representation of the romance genre is manifested in the novel Fireside from the customary plot in romance by Cawelti's theory; first meeting, boy wins the girl, obstacle or problem, and a mostly happy ending of the story.
Artikel Info	Abstrak
Sejarah Artikel Diterima: 2023-06-12 Direvisi: 2023-07-23 Dipublikasi: 2023-08-14 Kata kunci: <i>Percintaan;</i> <i>Aturan Romantis;</i> <i>Genre Roman;</i> <i>Perapian Novel.</i>	Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengidentifikasi bagaimana novel Fireside (2009) karya Susan Wiggs merepresentasikan genre romansa. Pendekatan penelitian ini yang meliputi uraian analisis adalah kualitatif. Novel Fireside karya Susan Wiggs, pendekatan tekstual dengan pembacaan cermat yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini, berfungsi sebagai unit analisis. Hasil analisis data tersebut kemudian digunakan untuk mengkaji prinsip-prinsip dasar romansa dalam buku tersebut. Buku Cawelti G. John (1977) <i>Adventure, Mystery, and Romance: Formulas Stories as Art and Popular Culture</i> menjadi dasar pemikiran yang diterapkan dalam penelitian ini. Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa representasi genre roman dimanifestasikan dalam novel Fireside dari alur adat dalam roman menurut teori Cawelti; pertemuan pertama, laki-laki memenangkan perempuan, rintangan atau masalah, dan sebagian besar akhir cerita yang bahagia.

I. INTRODUCTION

A novel is a verbal object that contains linguistic elements, such as words and punctuation marks (Aliyev, 2021). In addition, Aliyev also stated that novels are intended by their authors to tell fictional stories. Mc. Donnel (1982) defines the novel as a long work of fiction that deals with situations and characters that are modeled from real-world settings. According to Khusanboyevna (2022), based on the history of the genre, the first novel appeared in the Romance-speaking peoples of the age between the XII and XII centuries. People can enjoy themselves while learning a great deal about human characters by reading a novel.

Literature, in the broadest sense, comprises all written works, according to Jones (1986). Novels, plays, poetry, and prose are all examples of literary works. In addition to short stories, novels are prose forms. Numerous people read both novels and short stories. A novel conveys a certain facet of human existence and love. The novel is written in a long composition because it

discusses human actions and describes what happened in society. In other words, to discuss human actions, we can use novel media for data analysis.

There are various genres of novels, one of which is romance novels. A romance is said to be a universal story because the experiences presented in its story are usually the experiences and the dreams most people see in real life (Wijanarka, 2022). In addition, according to Harmon and Holman (2003), a romantic connection typically involves intense love. Radway (1991), pointed out that the characteristic of romance is "romantic suspense". Radway suggested that in a romance plot, there will be a situation that will create suspense and lead the story into a complication. From the explanation, romance in the story has a complex structure and is related to love. In this research, a novel entitled Fireside by Susan Wiggs is used as the object of the study. Fireside could be defined as a romance novel. It's challenging to define a romance novel because authors and critics have

diverse definitions of it (Langbauer, 63 as cited in Kapic, 2019). According to Regis, a romance novel typically follows a heroine on the path to discovering true love. In other words, romance has a very close relationship with love, and romance novels are the packaging of that love in the form of written works.

A character is a real or fictional being that appears in a tale, play, or other piece of literature (Hanisa, 2016). According to Patmarinanta and Ernawati (2016), A story typically features one or more of these characters among its many other characters. The main or primary character may be one or more of these characters. In other words, the main character is the character that takes an important role in a story. In the Fireside novel by Susan Wiggs, the main characters are Kim and Bo. Kimberly van Dorn (Kim) is described as a beautiful woman, has a good body, and long reddish hair. Kim is an independent woman who lives independently in New York. After an incident occurred regarding her romantic relationship, Kim flew to calm down to Avalon City which is where her mother lives. Bo Crutcher (Bo) is described as a handsome man with an athletic body who likes sexy women. Bo is from the city of Avalon. Bo is an athlete who is just a little closer to achieving his dream. Bo's romance is also not good because he is separated by years from his first love after the woman becomes pregnant with their child.

Starting with Kim who had problems with her love life, Kim decided to calm herself down and return to live with her mother. On the other hand, Bo faces a situation where his first love calls him back to ask for help, namely to look after their child because she is facing a problem. Their first meeting was at the airport, and it didn't go well because Kim was in a bad mood. As fate would have it, Bo and Kim live in the same house because Bo is looking for a cottage that he can live in with his son and it just so happens that Mrs. Kim runs the cottage. The closeness between Bo and Kim is even more intense to the point where both of them like each other. But they both face problems when Bo is faced with the situation that he has to marry his first love. After Bo left, Bo's first love problem was resolved and Bo didn't need to marry her. Because of this, he returned to Avalon and proposed to Kim to be his life partner.

Based on the explanation above, this novel portrays romanticism and love. Bo and Kim—the main characters—became the major of this research. From this novel, readers can learn how

to handle bad situations that occur. In addition, readers can also learn to be willing and trust the people they love. Thus, considering the plot of the story of the main character, the writer focuses on the study of the rules of romance manifested in the textual structure of the novel Fireside.

This study utilized Cawelti's theory (1977) as the main theory about the customary plot in romance. Cawelti stated that the customary plot in romance consists of the development of the love story itself. These developments consist of the first meeting, the boy wins the girl, the obstacle or problem, and the ending of the story. Each story has an end. There are two possible outcomes in each work of fiction: happy or unhappy. It is essential for romances to have satisfying outcomes. This theory helps researchers in analyzing this novel. The plot in the story serves as evidence of the theory used. The purpose of this study is to explain the rules of romance manifested in the novel Fireside by Susan Wiggs.

As a supporting theory, according to S. Mahmud (2018) in her journal article, Stenberg proposed a triangle-shaped theory of love that may be used to evaluate three aspects of love: intimacy, passion, and commitment. The topic of the romance genre will also be closely tied to and related to this conversation because even love may be investigated and its depth further explored. There are some aspects of human interaction with feelings and thoughts that, presumably, result in happiness, yet there is also the chance that the opposite will occur.

Another supporting theory is from Post (1981). Post stated that the reality of romance is mostly presented in negative terms. Action is preferred over personality. The plot of a romantic action will have "astonishing events" that "are likely to have a symbolic or ideological, rather than a realistic plausibility." While "the character may become profoundly involved," the characters in the relationship are "something abstract and ideal," not "completely related to each other or to society or to the past".

II. METHOD

The method used in this study is the qualitative descriptive method with narrative analysis. This is because the researchers are concerned about the phenomenon, its characteristics, and the sequence of statistics to have a better understanding of the participant's perspective and opinion. According to Gall and Borg, the descriptive method is a method that

describes the phenomenon with its characteristic (Gall and Borg, 2007, as cited in Nassaji, 2015). In other words, it is really important for the research because the qualitative method tends to describe the facts in element records and due to the fact the find out about is ordinarily the genre of romance in literature.

The data are in the form of words which is obtained from the Novel entitled Fireside. The researchers applied narrative analysis to analyze the text. Because the study is used a qualitative descriptive, so the Analysis of literary works using a narrative approach is very necessary. A sort of qualitative methodology known as narrative research is based on hearing or reading descriptions of events that are connected in time (Czarniawska, 2004, as cited in Nasheeda et al, 2019). In addition, A methodology for investigating people's actual lives as a source of knowledge in and of itself that calls for deeper comprehension is narrative analysis (Clandinin & Huber, 2010, as cited in Nasheeda et al, 2019).

III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researchers provided a discussion about the way rules of romance appeared in a novel entitled Fireside. The discussion focused on the characters and the plot of the story. The rules of romance are analyzed through the storyline and characters' behaviors by using Cawelti's theory about the customary plot in romance (first meeting, boy wins the girl, obstacle or problem, and ending of the story). It appears that the storyline in this novel is in accordance with the rules of the romance genre;

1. The first encounter between a man and a woman

At the beginning of the story, Kim is having trouble at the airport so Bo, who happens to be in the same place, moves in to help Kim. We can see the quotation in Chapter 2 on page 16:

"Realizing she was stuck, he hurried over, stepped aboard the walkway and sprinted to her side. "You look like you could use a hand, ma'am," he said" (Fireside, p. 16)

It is at this point that we can see a meeting between two strangers, a man and a woman. It could be concluded that this encounter was the beginning of their story. Bo, the person who assisted Kim at the airport, caught Kim's interest.

2. A problem arose.

Already like each other, Kim and Bo have a lot of issues. Kim has a broken heart issue. Her

ex was her client, Lloyd. One day they got into a fight and Lloyd broke up with Kim and fired her. This problem makes her deeply feeling down so she goes to her hometown and decides to live with her mom. She thinks that it is a good decision to throw away everything she has been through and achieved and go to her hometown to clear her mind. On page 33 of chapter 3, specifically lines 12-16, we can see the quotation.

"We had a huge falling-out at a party last night," she said. "Double whammy—he both dumped me and fired me. It got...kind of loud and ugly, so I went straight to the airport with only the clothes on my back, and this little evening bag." (Fireside, p. 33)

Not only Kim, but Bo also has issues. He must first deal with his old flame while also caring for his son AJ.

On page 57 of chapter 4, specifically lines 3–8, we can see this.

"And then yesterday...the urgent call that didn't leave him a choice. "Thank God, you answered," she'd said in a voice he barely remembered.

"Yolanda?" (Fireside, p. 57)

It is clear that this is the start of Bo's journey back to connect with Yolanda, his first love. Bo is needed to help Yolanda. Bo needed to take care of his kid AJ for a while as a result of this.

3. The women ran away

At the beginning of Bo's approach, Kim still could not accept or open her heart to Bo. She just always tries to lock up her very clear feelings for Bo because Bo is an athlete, just like his ex-boyfriend who has hurt and destroyed his life.

"But an athlete? A major leaguer? It was a nightmare. After the Lloyd fiasco, she didn't want a thing to do with athletes in any way, shape or form, ever again." (Fireside, p. 137)

Kim tries to keep her distance. Because she just had a painful experience with an athlete. Not wanting to fall into the same hole, Kim tries to shake off her interest in athletes.

4. The lady is back

Bo keeps trying to convince Kim of his sincere feelings and great love until finally Kim accepts Bo's feelings and begins to open her heart.

"You're not meant to say anything. You're supposed to kiss me back, and then we'll hold each other and watch the moon rise. And for the rest of our lives, we'll remember our first kiss."

"Bo Crutcher," she said, relaxing against him. "You're a true romantic." (Fireside, p. 289)

Kim is slightly starting to accept Bo's sincere feelings toward her. This is all because Bo's attitude towards Kim is very gentle and sincere, so it makes her who previously thought of staying away from Bo turn into feelings of affection.

5. There is an explanation of the problem.

The union of Kim and Bo does not mean that the problem is over, but instead, they are faced with the fact that AJ asked Bo to marry his mother to help him get out of immigration problems. Kim and Bo have to separate and their love seems to have run aground, but then Bo returns and explains to Kim that he doesn't have to marry Yolanda but instead find a better way to help her.

"Took forever to locate the records, but we did. And because of that, Yolanda qualifies for an expedited temporary visa, and she can apply for naturalization." (Fireside, p. 395)

This explains that a problem will have a solution to solve it. We need to trust our partner and believe that everything will be alright.

6. Proposal or marriage.

Bo's return makes Kim stunned, she didn't expect all of this to happen. Then, Bo proposes to Kim and doesn't want to let her in his life again.

"Okay. Here goes—what are you doing for the rest of your life? See, I got these big plans, but nothing's going to work without you. Because you're the main reason for all my big plans—to make a home with you, love you for the rest of my life, that kind of thing. Plus, I come with a free bonus kid, and he's the best kid in the world." (Fireside, p. 396)

This sweet expression was made by Bo to express how much Bo loves Kim and wants to marry her. In other words, Kim and Bo's story ends with the two of them becoming one with a serious bond.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

A. Conclusion

Analysis of the novel entitled Fireside by Susan Wiggs produces results that are in accordance with the initial objectives. The analysis reveals that the storyline of the novel is in accordance with Cawelti's theory about the customary plot in romance (first meeting, boy wins the girl, obstacle or problem, and ending of the story). Fireside's novel clearly describes the rules of romance. Starting from the first encounter, then a problem arises, then the woman runs away, then the lady is back, then an explanation of the problem, and it ends with marriage. It can be concluded that the novel Fireside by Susan Wiggs has a happy ending as a novel. All embodiments of romance are contained in the Fireside novel, so that the Fireside novel can be said to be a romance novel because it complied with the rules of romance. This study will help to enrich knowledge about analysis with a textual approach. In addition, this study will give future researchers knowledge about the rules of the romance genre in particular. Lastly, this study provides knowledge about the benefits of literature contained in a literary work.

B. Suggestion

Discussion regarding this research is still very limited and requires a lot of input. Suggestions for future authors are to examine more deeply and comprehensively about The Rules of Romance Manifested in the Textual Structure of the Novel Fireside.

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